



Ferryhill Parish Church

The Church of Scotland

Advent I
2 December 2018
11 a.m.



You are very welcome to Ferryhill Parish Church. Please sit wherever you like. If you are visiting then please sign the visitors' book in the foyer. Children are always welcome and the foyer is available during the service should you wish to use it.

Please note that we are experimenting with live streaming of worship. If you do not wish to be seen on the broadcast stream, the seating below the gallery and in the gallery is beyond the view of the cameras.

Today's worship is led by:

Peter Johnston (Minister)
Ann Ralph (Reader)
Kevin Haggart (Organist)
Graeme Craigen (Beadle)

The flowers in the Sanctuary are donated this week by Margaret Barclay, remembering Betty with love.



Gathering Praise

Hope is a candle

CH 284

(Verse 1)

Lighting First Advent Candle

Call to Worship

Leader: The first Sunday in Advent.
A Sunday of Hope.

All: **Time to remember**
a child born amidst slavery,
a nation awaiting rebirth,
a cry for freedom.

Leader: Hope is born in us today.
Let us worship the God of Hope.

Praise

Womb of life and source of being

CH 118

Welcome and Church Notices

Prayer

Reading

Exodus 1: 4-14,22

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Amram's Story

Praise	When the storms of life are raging	CH 570
Reading	Numbers 2: 1-10	

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Jochebed's Story

Offering Praise	For everyone born	CH 685
Act of Dedication		<i>Please remain standing</i>

Generous God,
 all that we are and have
 is from you,
 receive now our offerings,
 freely given,
 to be used for the benefit of all.

May we be willing to offer freely,
 in the service of others,
 whatever we can,
 in time, money or talents.
 Amen.

Praise

We will walk with God

CH 803

Words: Swaziland traditional
 adapted by Peter Johnston in verses 2 & 3

1. We will walk with God, my brothers,
 we will walk with God.
 We will walk with God, my sisters,
 we will walk with God.
 We will go rejoicing
 till the kingdom has come.
 We will go rejoicing
 till the kingdom has come.
2. We will trust our God, my sisters,
 we will trust our God.
 We will trust our God, my brothers,
 We will trust our God.
 We will seek God's justice
 till the kingdom has come.
 We will seek God's justice
 till the kingdom has come.
3. We will hope in God, my brothers,
 we will hope in God.
 We will hope in God, my sisters,
 we will hope in God.
 We will bring compassion
 till the kingdom has come.
 We will bring compassion
 till the kingdom has come.

4. We will walk with God, my sisters,
we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my brothers,
we will walk with God.
We will go rejoicing
till the kingdom has come.
We will go rejoicing
till the kingdom has come.

Move to Church Hall

Discussion

- What caught your attention from today's birth story?
- What similarities do you see to other important birth stories in the Bible?
- Thinking about the plight of the Hebrews in Egypt, can you think of modern situations which seem similar?
- How do you feel about the plight of the mother of the child?
- What would you have done in her situation?
- Where do you see God's activity in this story?
- In stories from the news you may have heard recently which speak of the plight of families and children, talk about the ways in which both grief and hope is revealed.

Activity

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us the wrong we have done,
as we forgive those who have wronged us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Praise

When we are living

CH 726

1. When we are living, we are in the Lord,
and when we're dying, we are in the Lord;
for in our living and in our dying
we belong to God, we belong to God.
2. Each day allows us to decide for good,
loving and serving as we know we should;
in thankful giving, in hopeful living,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
3. Sometimes we sorrow, other times embrace,
sometimes we question everything we face;
yet in our yearning is deeper learning:
we belong to God, we belong to God.
4. Till earth is over may we always know
love never fails us: God has made it so.
Hard times will prove us, never remove us;
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Blessing

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all
evermore.

Spoken Amen

Amen, amen, alleluia, amen.
Amen, amen, alleluia, amen.



1. **The Traidcraft Christmas Appeal** hopes to raise money to help secure a new future for producers whose livelihoods are in danger, due to the downsizing of Traidcraft PLC. Take a coloured, cut out bauble from the tree at the Traidcraft Stall and write on it your Christmas wish for people living in poverty. Place a donation in the box and then take your bauble home and hang it on your Christmas tree. Make your tree life changing this Christmas.
2. **The Big Christmas Card** is back in the foyer from this week until Christmas. Please use it to send your Christmas wishes to your friends in the congregation and donate the money you save on cards to our nominated advent charities. You will also be saving precious time and even more precious natural resources.
3. The Winter issue of **Parish News** is now available to be picked up in the foyer for distribution.
4. We are running the **Bubblegum 'n' Fluff** programme introducing the real story behind Christmas to Primary 6s next week. If you would like to volunteer to help out please come along either Monday at South Holburn Church and/or Tuesday morning at Ferryhill Church. Both sessions begin at 9 a.m. No previous experience required!
5. **Stewardship Team:** We will meet on Monday 3 December at 7.15 p.m. in the Upper Room.
6. **Sleep in the Park 2018:** The young people of Ferryburn Fellowship are gearing up for joining thousands of others in parks in Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh on Saturday 8 December for a sleep out under the stars. So far more than £2 million has been raised to help alleviate homelessness in Scotland. If you have not already donated you can still do so online via <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/ferryburn-fellowship1>.
7. **Bon-Accord Silver Bands Christmas Concert:** The Bon-Accord Silver Band and the Bon-Accord Silver 'B' Band will be filling Ferryhill Church with festive joy and that warm fuzzy feeling of Christmas on Sunday 9 December at 7 p.m. The bands will perform a mixture of traditional and modern Christmas classics and there will be plenty of opportunity for you to sing along to your favourite carols. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available at the interval and are included in the ticket price of £8 for adults and £5 for concessions. Tickets will be available at the door.

Useful Information



A Seasonal Eco-Tip

Make space in your freezer in the run up to Christmas. Start eating from the freezer a couple of nights a week - this saves you money and will make space for the Christmas extras.



Contacts

Please contact the Minister, Rev Peter Johnston, for information about Church Membership, Baptism, or being married in Church, or complete one of the cards available in the Hymn Book and hand it in as you leave.

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**A Kirk for All
at Ferryhill**